

guarded by players taller or having a large vertical jumping ability. Ferrari does not allow a player to make such arc adjustments. The reason Ferrari does not allow such adjustments is that the player does not stand under the hoop, but instead stands behind the hoop. Whereas, in applicant's invention the player has to stand under the hoop in order to use the training device.

Applicant's claim 1 recites a base means which allows a player to stand under the hoop. Whereas, the base in Ferrari would interfere with a player trying to stand under the hoop. In fact, Ferrari's "ring" or hoop is in a vertical position, while applicant's hoop is shown in a horizontal position, making it obviously easier to stand under the hoop. It should be restated that Claim 1 recites a player to stand under the hoop, not behind it as in Ferrari.

Claims 2-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as unpatentable over Ferrari in view of Barnes, Jr. 4,786,053.

Barnes, Jr., was cited to show a T-shape structure that would support a hoop such that a player can stand under the hoop. However, none of the views, including Figure 4, shows a T-shape structure. It is the simplicity of applicant's invention and the T-shape structure.

In view of the arguments stated concerning Claim 1 about Ferrari they will not be restated again, except to say that since Ferrari does not apply to or meet the claimed structure of Claim 1, it should not be applied in a 35 USC 103 (a) rejection.

It is believed that the application and claims are in a condition for allowance; accordingly, an early allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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